Exploration of Gold

2240. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mines alongwith the quantity and value of gold extracted therefrom during 1996-97 and current year;

(b) the total reserve of gold as on 31st March, 1998;

(c) the States where exploration of gold has been going on; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper exploration of gold during Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per the information available, gold producing mines in the country, the quantity of gold produced and the value of the gold during 1996-97 and 1998-99 (upto May, 1998) are as follows:—

(Quantity in Kilograms and value Rs. in lakhs)

	1996-97		1998-99 (Upto May, 98) (Provisional)	
Name of Mine	Quantity	Value*	Quantity	Value*
Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.				
Mysore Champion Reef				
Amalgamated Mines	74.41	377.28	9.51	45.45
Nundydroog	325.79	1651.80	43.62	208.50
Chigargunta	150.94	765.25	20.87	99.75
Yeppamana	70.98	359.89	5.14	24.56
Old Bisanatham	36.55	185.30	5.66	27.05
Heap Leaching	27.53	139.58	5.62	26.86
Hutti Gold Mines Company	Limited			
Hutti Unit	1416.62	7210.59	206.84	988.69
Chitradurga	187.03	951.98	36.64	175.13
Hindustan Copper Ltd. as by-product	610.00	3104.9	19.00	90.82

* Based on the average price of gold realised in Indian market.

(b) As per National Minerals Inventory, maintained by IBM, the recoverable reserves of gold in the country as on 1.4.95 are placed at 17.79 million tonnes with metal content of 67.86 tonnes.

(c) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is undertaking gold exploration in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) 55 (Fifty five) gold investigations during IXth Five-year Plan have been programmed.